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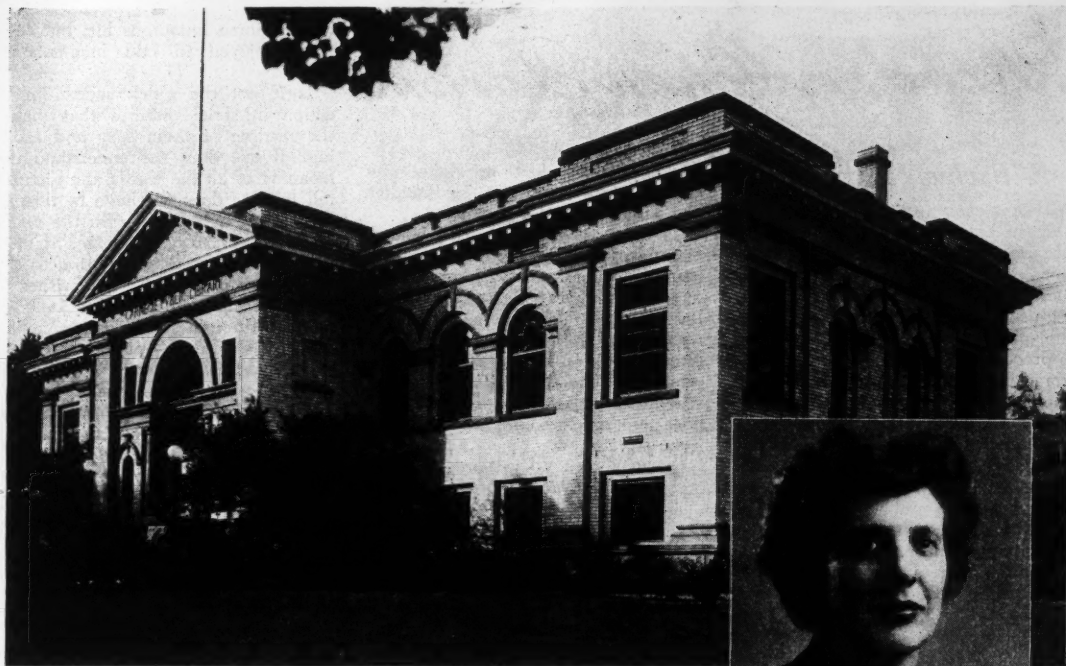
JOURNAL

Title Page and Index to Vol. 69

JANUARY - DECEMBER 1944

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BOISE PUBLIC LIBRARY
EUNICE A. VON ENDE, *Librarian*

Library Outline No. 38

In 1893 the Woman's Columbian Club of Boise, Idaho, established the City Library, forerunner of the Boise Public Library. The institution was supported jointly by the Columbian Club and the city. In 1902, through the efforts of the Columbian Club, a Carnegie grant was secured for the erection of a public library building, and in 1905 the new building was formally opened as a public institution. In its forty odd years of growth, the Library has become an integral part of the community. It has built up a very useful Reference Department that includes an interesting collection of Pacific Northwest Americana. The Boys' and Girls' Department is an important factor in fostering an early enthusiasm for the library habit. For the past five years this department has conducted a most successful fifteen-minute radio program. A special feature of the Library year is the annual open house for the display of new books, held during National Book

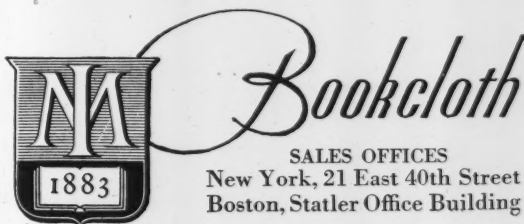
Week in November. The Boise Public Library works in close cooperation with other community agencies to promote a better understanding of local problems and a keener appreciation of national and international affairs.

Eunice A. von Ende, Librarian, grew up in Idaho. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Idaho in 1929, and after working a year in the University Library attended Drexel Institute School of Librarianship. From 1931 to 1938 she was a staff member, District of Columbia Public Library, after which she returned to her native state. Miss von Ende is now Idaho representative on ALA membership committee; vice president, Idaho State Library Association; Idaho representative on executive board, Pacific Northwest Library Association; and ALA Assistant Liaison Librarian, Ninth Service Command.

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Readers' Open Forum

Exchanges Urged

IT HAS come to the attention of the Department of State that various libraries and other cultural institutions in the United States are not maintaining active exchange relations with similar foreign institutions during the present crisis. The Department appreciates the fact that many of the libraries in the country are handicapped by being understaffed and by having a large turnover in trained personnel. The Department wishes to emphasize, however, the importance of making every effort to maintain a regular flow of publications between cultural institutions in this country and other countries.

For the Secretary of State:

—E. WILDER SPAULDING,
Chief, Division of
Research and Publication,
Dept. of State, Washington

Libraries, War and 16mm.

IN THEIR efforts to build up an understanding of war problems, libraries cannot afford to neglect the use of 16mm. educational film.¹ Whether they are used as a means of introducing books or as basic library materials, they can bring libraries closer to people and people closer to libraries. The film programs sponsored by OWI provide an opportunity for libraries to try this media and aid the war effort at the same time.

In planning to use films, libraries should locate available projectors and operators in their own communities, should arrange with local clubs and organizations to provide audiences, or perhaps auditoriums, should arrange with at least one of the 239 film libraries in the United States for rental of films, and should check lists such as the ones appearing in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* and *Film News*, and catalogs provided by OWI, United Nations Information Office, and the film libraries. Addresses of the 239 film libraries and other information can be obtained from

Non-theatrical Division
Bureau of Motion Pictures
Office of War Information
Washington 25, D. C.

Librarians should remember that these films are usually not sold like

books but are lent or rented for specific dates and can be handled like interlibrary loans.

The list of films on "The Unconquerables," which is published in this issue of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, indicates the types of films which can be used to introduce a subject to readers and which can arouse an interest in related books. As other programs on the nations at war are scheduled, other film lists will appear and can be used to strengthen library programs.

—PAUL HOWARD,
Chief, Library Program
Division, OWI

Down to Brass Tacks on the Comics

THE RECENT description of the Toledo Public Library's experiment with its child readers and the comics (*LIB. JOUR.*, Oct. 15, 1943, p. 832-835) has, no doubt, stimulated pros and cons in the minds of those who are studying to direct or guide child habits. One is not surprised that the children themselves were unable to answer satisfactorily the prize question, "What is there about comics that makes you like them so well?" "They are exciting, yes; but why?" They could not tell.

Influenced chiefly by distaste for the poor subject matter in most comics, the trained minds of librarians resist a free enjoyment of pictured funnies; hence their unsatisfied quest for the reason the children find so much pleasure in them. Is it not possible that resistance, in itself, may check the sympathetic understanding that always helps in the solution of a problem? The Toledo experiment has given an excellent approach to what should be a continued study of the problem of juvenile comics in some form.

One who early learned to enjoy the classics, though led through many years and varying circumstances into the digging of fascinating local history from archives, still finds her mind turning back, occasionally, to happy moments in her childhood reading when progressive pictures, in magazines, told the story of a housekeeper's weekly washing or other incidents of daily life. Those amusing pictures were attempts to advertise a new soap product or to give expres-

sion to some humorous hit, but they were enjoyed in odd moments of leisure.

Is it not the quick succession of action in serial pictures that makes the reading of them easy and exciting? If one does not understand the meaning of all the words, the pictures tell it. One does not have to turn to the end of a book to learn the result of a plot or story. One sees it at a glance. The process of getting to the end is also pictured. If one wishes to follow it through, one has only to look it through. As in the movies, quickly successive pictures *portray* action, so in the comics less quickly successive pictures *simulate* action. The two are analogous in the mental processes stimulated, but to the more indolent reader the comic has its appeal. One may "skip" or read, according to one's mood, and still be entertained with little expense and without leaving the comforts of home.

A collection of complete episodes, graphically and quickly told, easily assimilated, featuring and therefore appealing to many and various phases of life. Might not that be a definition of a comic magazine? The characters in the episodes usually speak for themselves. One should hesitate to liken these comic productions to anything so useful as canned goods. To name them "canned dramatics" might seem facetious but there is some satisfaction in the thought.

It may even be true that the production of comic magazines in such appalling numbers as Sister Mary Clare's study uncovered is largely a by-product of the motion picture industry—spurred by Walt Disney's successes. If the 165 varieties of "funny magazines" can flourish, notwithstanding their unclassical, unsocial, irreligious, and unethical content, their cheap paper and their poor print, is it not time to set up a board of censorship that will ask the publishers or printers to give the public what it should have?

More seriously, there is obviously an opportunity, right in this field, for

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¹ See OWI's list of recommended films on "The United Nations" in this issue, p. 25, of the *LIB. JOUR.*, also the Calendar, inside front cover.

publishers of children's literature and interested educators to collaborate in the production of one or more children's comics that will be ethical, social and religious, even classical. Many a difficult pedagogical and educational problem could be surmounted with appropriate funnies to show how to handle critical points if one could find the talent that could portray, as well as state succinctly, the child's dilemma, in pictures and words within his power of comprehension. Perhaps humor could be both cultivated and directed if pedagogues would face the serious side of humor.

—HELEN M. WRIGHT,
Jersey City, N. J.

Beet-Red

WILLIS KERR, librarian of Claremont Colleges Library, "sympathetically" points out in a letter of Nov. 30 that the Editor made another mistake in trying to correct one:

"Sorry, but the geographical correction in Nov. 15 L.J. regarding our Miss Helen Cowles creates another 'miss' in dubbing her as 'Mrs.' Evidently, she is still confused with Mrs. Barbara Cowles, of U.C. Library at Berkeley."

Profoundest apologies both to Miss Helen Cowles and to Mrs. Barbara Cowles for this stupidity are due—and here proffered.

—THE EDITOR

L. C. Announces New Edition of "Subject Headings"

THE FOURTH edition of *Subject Headings Used in the Library of Congress* was recently announced by Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress. Edited by Mary Wilson MacNair, the work comes in two volumes of 2,743 pages (not sold separately), and may be had from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for \$10. A review of this monumental work by Harriet D. MacPherson, librarian of Smith College, Northampton, will appear in an early issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

If You're in New York

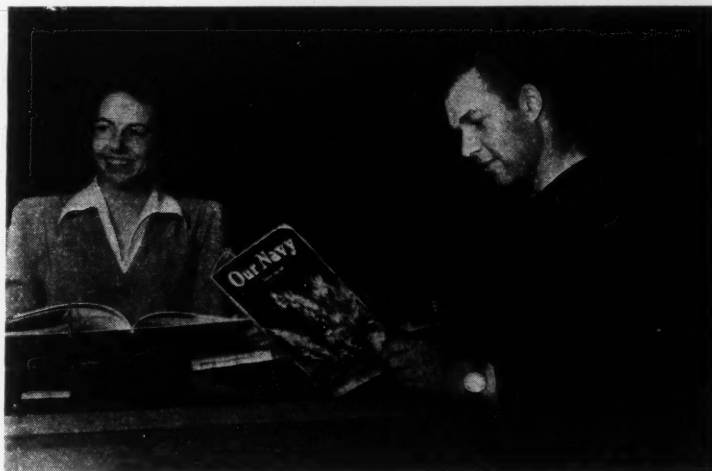
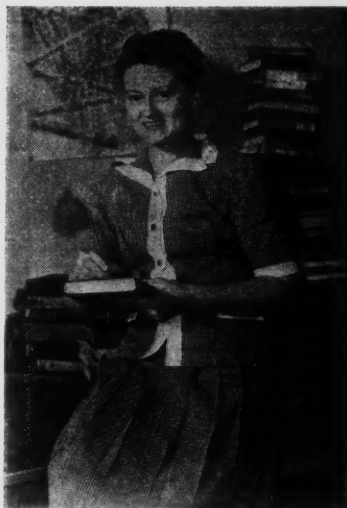
THE NEW-YORK Historical Society library has just announced an exhibition, "Some Resources in Latin-American History 1500-1900," to be held

FARRAGUT, IDAHO, boasts the second-largest U. S. Naval Training Station in this country.

Opposite is a photograph of Dorothy Schroeder, head librarian of the Station, who has pioneered in the establishment of good book services to those still in "boot" training there.

"If recruits are encouraged to frequent the library," Miss Schroeder says, "they will continue the habit long after they get out of training camp." Naturally, the Bluejacket's Manual leads in popularity, but there is hardly a subject that isn't delved into. Fiction is also popular, particularly in the hospital area, ship's company and service schools.

Below, Frances L. Watt, who supervises the library at Camp Scott (the newest of the eight libraries at Farragut) and Clyde Westlund, seaman second class, have apparently found something funny in *Our Navy*.



from Jan. 11 to Apr. 30. It will cover "the history of South and Central America as well as the South and Southwest of the United States"—books, "on the history, travel and geography of these regions, manuscripts, maps, diaries and pictures relating to their settlement and growth." Hours are daily 1-5, except Monday; Saturdays, 10-5; Sundays and holidays, 1-5.

Opinions Wanted

THE 1942 EDITION of the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* is now available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. This volume is the 64th annual edition of this publication which in-

cludes summary statistics on many subjects from governmental and non-governmental sources.

In order to obtain information which will be useful in evaluating material to be included in this volume, a postcard has been inserted in each copy of the new edition. Readers of this journal who are users of the *Statistical Abstract* are urged to fill in and return this postcard. Comments and suggestions for improving the usefulness of this book will receive careful consideration. Such letters should be addressed to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

—J. C. CAPT,
Director, Bureau of the Census,
Department of Commerce, Wash.

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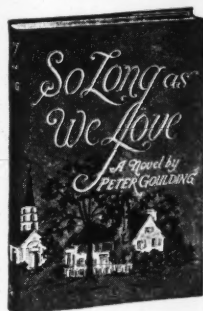
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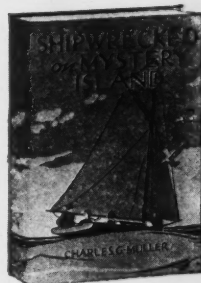
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